

REMARKS

Claims 3-12 remain in this application, of which only Claim 3 is in independent form. The recitations of Claims 13 and 14 have been incorporated into Claim 3, and Claims 1, 2 and 13-16 have been canceled; these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and with no change in scope. Because Claim 3 has now been rewritten to incorporate the recitations of Claim 14 and of intervening Claim 13, Claim 3, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Since the only changes made are to cancel rejected claims and to adopt the Examiner's suggestion as to allowable subject matter, entry of this Amendment After Final Action is believed to be a matter of right. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and pass the application promptly to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

Leonard P. Diana

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